

# FELLOW NEWS

NEWS FOR AND ABOUT THE COASTAL MANAGEMENT FELLOWS

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NOAA Coastal Services Center  
LINKING PEOPLE, INFORMATION, AND TECHNOLOGY

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THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) COASTAL SERVICES CENTER TO RELAY INFORMATION ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AND PROVIDE A FORUM FOR INFORMATION EXCHANGE AMONG FELLOWS, MENTORS, SEA GRANT, AND THE CENTER.

## FOCUS ON FELLOWS: DAVID FUSS 1999–2001

**N**ever underestimate the power of a children's book. For coastal management fellow David Fuss, the story of Dr. Seuss' imaginary creature the Lorax shaped the way he sees the world, and influenced his choice of careers.

David grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, and has had a passion for environmental stewardship for as long as he can remember. "I suppose *The Lorax* and Greenpeace are as



**Above:** David is outside once again. This time developing restoration and management strategies for an 18,650 acre site in North Carolina that is habitat for rare vegetative and animal communities.

responsible for my interest in the environment as anything," he comments. "That, and I spent a lot of time outside as a kid."

David graduated from the University of Virginia. While there, he spent his summers working for the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). Upon completing his undergraduate degree, a VIMS colleague helped him obtain an internship with the Caribbean Marine Research Center in the Bahamas. When he finished the five-month spiny lobster research project there, he returned to VIMS, where he met his future wife, Karen.

David left VIMS and moved to Beaufort, North Carolina, where Karen had accepted a job with the North Carolina Aquarium. For the next four years, David served as a technician for the National Marine Fisheries Service.

During this time, David spent many hours in the lab, worked on a few projects for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and began to question his professional future.

"I began thinking, 'what's this all for?'" he recalls. Like the *Lorax*, David wanted to have a greater voice on behalf of the ecological landscape he knew so much about. "So I decided to go back to school to learn more about management."



**Above:** North Carolina Division of Coastal Management co-mentors Kelly Williams and Jim Stanfill collecting GPS data. The two have helped David with all phases of the fellowship project.

David and Karen moved from North Carolina to the Pacific Northwest so that David could begin graduate school at the State University of Oregon.

David learned about the fellowship during his work on his master's project, in which he assisted with the compilation and completion of a digital database for wetland restoration around Coos Bay. Ironically, his graduate research bridged the gap between projects initiated by NOAA coastal management fellows Chad Nelson and Tanya Haddad.

Both Chad and Tanya encouraged David to apply for the fellowship. As fate would have it, one of the projects accepted by the Coastal Services Center was with the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management. It also

(Continued on page 2) seemed like the perfect fit for David.

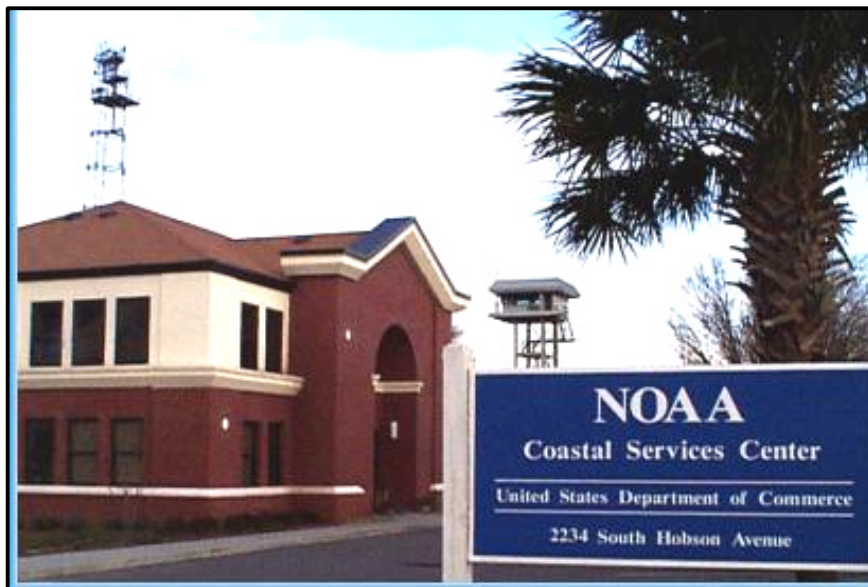
Nominated by Oregon Sea Grant, David was matched with the project in North Carolina. Shortly before he and Karen returned to the Southeast, they welcomed son Nolan into their family.

Like most fellowship projects, David's has proven to be a major undertaking. His project has two primary components. One is to develop a restoration and management plan for the forested wetlands at the Buckridge Coastal Reserve in northeastern North Carolina. The other is to evaluate and suggest changes to the Division of Coastal Management's current mitigation policy for coastal resources.

With his fellowship project nearing completion, David says the experience has been very rewarding. He emphasizes that his enjoyment is due in large part to the tremendous support of his mentors, Jim Stanfill and Kelly Williams. David adds that he likes working at the project level of resource management because he can "see things happening."

Though he has several options, David is not yet certain what he will undertake once the project is completed this fall. "It's been such an involved project; it's hard to imagine it ending," he adds with a chuckle. David says working on this project has helped him become a part of coastal zone management in North Carolina, and he will undoubtedly remain in the field. ♦

For more information about David's project, visit <http://ocean.otr.usm.edu/~jfuss/> or contact David David.Fuss@ncmail.net.



Above: NOAA Coastal Services Center in Charleston, SC.

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## FOCUS ON THE CENTER: CSC LIBRARY

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**L**ooking for that tough-to-find reference for your project? Trying to tackle a coastal problem and don't know where to begin looking for solutions? The NOAA Coastal Services Center library is a great source for coastal management information.

The Library has numerous resources of information pertinent to coastal issues. The collection includes reference and general resources, journals, newsletters, CD-ROMs, posters, and videos. These materials are available to library clients outside the Center through interlibrary loans.

The Coastal Zone Information Center (CZIC) collection is one of the library's most valuable resources. Items in this collection were acquired under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and cover over 25 years of U.S. coastal management experience. The library is currently scanning selected documents and making them available on-line.

Land use and land planning, habitat degradation and preservation, coastal economics, oceanic sciences, environmental laws and regulations, nonpoint source pollution, coastal hazards, fisheries, aquatic vegetation, and marine pollution are some of the topics that are covered in the library's collection.

Friendly and helpful Center staff are available to assist with coastal information inquiries Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fellows may search the on-line catalog, and may make inquiries by mail, e-mail, fax, or telephone; the library will then send the requested materials by mail. Fellows may check out library materials for a 30-day period. Interlibrary loan assistance is also provided to fellows who do not have access to a local library.

Please contact Janine Devereaux, head librarian, or Rebecca Owen, reference librarian, for assistance.  
E-mail: [library@csc.noaa.gov](mailto:library@csc.noaa.gov)  
URL: [www.csc.noaa.gov/library/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/library/)  
Phone: (800) 789-2234  
Fax: (843) 740-1298

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## FELLOW FLASHBACK:

**CHRIS  
CORNELISEN  
1996–1998**



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**T**he search for former NOAA coastal management fellow Chris Cornelisen ended at the University of South Florida's biology department, where we found Chris recently married and working on his Ph.D. He is specializing in the physical biology of benthic communities.

Chris, the only former fellow to pursue a doctorate upon completing the fellowship, wanted to build a strong foundation in theoretical research and applied science to complement the managerial experience he gained during the fellowship. He chose South Florida because he wanted to work under Dr. Flo Thomas, a faculty member at USF, because of the interdisciplinary nature of her work and opportunity to merge applied and basic research.

Nominated by the Florida Sea Grant Program, Chris was matched with the Massachusetts

Office of Coastal Zone Management to perform an analysis of the effectiveness of coastal habitat restoration programs in the Gulf of Maine. The goal was to expand coordination and facilitate information exchange among individuals, agencies, and nongovernmental organizations active in the restoration of coastal habitats.

Chris collected information about specific restoration activities of tidal marshes, freshwater impoundment construction, tidal flats, and seagrass within Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia. He then compiled this information into a database he developed using Microsoft Access®.

Chris also prepared a final report, "Restoration of Coastal Habitats and Species in the Gulf of Maine," which incorporates information about restoration activities associated with dunes, seabird populations, and anadromous fish.

Chris said the huge amount of responsibility he assumed during his fellowship has helped him a great deal professionally. He commented that the fellowship provided him with valuable

experience in written and oral communication, and relaying complex information in laypersons' terms. Most importantly, he added, is that he now brings a managerial twist to theoretical research.

Chris believes knowledge gained during the fellowship allows him to take a more "useful and applied" approach to his doctoral program, and highly recommends interested individuals to take advantage of the program he considers, "an exceptional experience."

Ideally, Chris would like to teach at the university level. However, he would also like to be involved with coastal management. He plans to finish his doctorate in about a year and a half, and is eager to spend a little less time in the lab and a bit more time interacting with others as he did during his fellowship.

Chris' ultimate goal is to help remove some of the communication barriers that exist between scientists and policy makers, now that he is intimately familiar with both arenas. ♦

*For more information about Chris' project, contact him at [cornelis@chuma.cas.usf.edu](mailto:cornelis@chuma.cas.usf.edu) or visit the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment Web site <http://www.gulfofmaine.org/>.*

## Cleveland, Ohio

July 15-19, 2001

THE COASTAL ZONE CONFERENCE IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST, MOST PRESTIGIOUS GATHERING OF COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS. PRESENTATIONS WILL DELVE INTO THE MOST PRESSING COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW. BE SURE TO CATCH THE SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP SESSION!

IN ADDITION TO THE STIMULATING SESSIONS, CLEVELAND'S ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME MUSEUM WILL PROVIDE PARTICIPANTS WITH JAMMIN' AFTER-CONFERENCE ENTERTAINMENT. MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GET READY TO ROCK!

For more information visit: [www.csc.noaa.gov/cz2001/index.html](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/cz2001/index.html)